

On the 8th of August, the monsoon trough extended 1500 nautical miles southeast from the Luzon Strait to a position just west of Truk with a weak surface cyclonic circulation imbedded in the trough 420 nautical miles north of Yap. Only 24 hours previously, its eastward extent had been restricted to the northern part of the South China Sea.

During the next two days, the disturbance drifted northwestward with little development. By the 10th, the disturbance had intensified to Tropical Storm Iris. She continued to move northward at 8 knots.

On the morning of the 11th, the complex upper air and weak steering flow patterns resulting from the presence of the subtropical ridge to the north and the near equatorial ridge to the south of Iris forced her to remain essentially quasi-stationary for the next 48 hours. However, she continued to intensify during this period and by early on the 12th, developed typhoon strength winds.

Early on the 13th, Iris began to move toward the northeast under the influence of the near equatorial ridge reaching her maximum intensity of 85 knots that afternoon (Figure 4-12).

As Hope dissipated to the east, the subtropical ridge returned to its climatological position and the near equatorial ridge weakened. This forced Iris to alter her course to the northwest on the 14th in

response to the change in the steering flow. The Japanese meteorological station at Minami Daito Jima measured a minimum pressure of 974.7mb during the passage of Iris (14/0707 GMT). Approximately 11 1/2 hours (1830 GMT) after passage of the surface center, the station reported peak gusts of 63 knots out of the southwest. She gradually weakened to minimum typhoon intensity prior to crossing the island of Amami O-Shima. Two fishing vessels were reported lost in the vicinity of the island during her passage.

After crossing the island she reintensified briefly to 75 knots. By the 16th, Iris weakened to tropical storm force and took a more northerly course (Figure 4-13).

On the morning of the 17th, Iris began recurving. Kunsan Air Base in the Republic of Korea experienced maximum sustained winds of 46 knots with a peak gust of 64 knots as Iris passed within 25nm (17/0646 GMT). She made landfall near Kaesong, Korea about 17/0800 GMT with maximum winds of 35 knots. Iris continued across Korea, entering the Sea of Japan near Wonsan where the maximum winds were still 30 knots. She became extratropical over the Sea of Japan as she merged with a front moving off Manchuria.

Initial reports from Korea indicated two persons were killed, three missing and hundreds were left homeless. A barge carrying six persons sank in the sea off Kijang - Myon, Yangsangun; 3 were rescued.



FIGURE 4-12. Typhoon Iris (left) near peak intensity 285 nm southeast of Okinawa. Remnants of Hope (right) just off the coast of Honshu, 13 August 1973, 0234 GMT. [DMSP imagery]

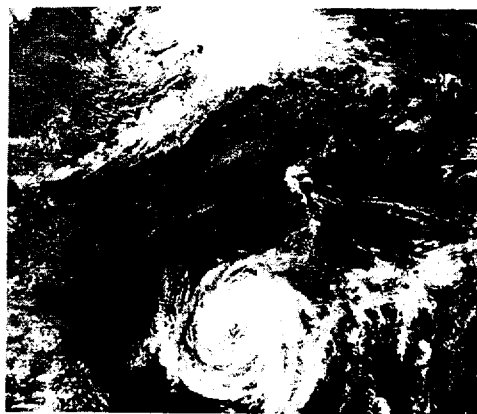


FIGURE 4-13. Typhoon Iris 165 nm south of Cheju Do, 16 August 1973, 0332 GMT. [DMSP imagery]